GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4793
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2001
DOWNSIZING OF MINISTRY
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have launched any drive to downsize his Ministry and observe austerity measures therein;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether some posts have been abolished in his Ministry under the said drive:

(d) If so, the total number of the posts abolished;

(e) whether the Government propose to reduce the number of posts or employees in the Indian Missions abroad;

(f) if so, the details thereof; (g) if not, the reasons therefor; and (h) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the ministry to curtail the expenditure being incurred by the Indian Missions abroad?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI U. V. KRISHNAM RAJU)

(a)-(d) Yes, sir. A total number of 151 posts in various grades have been abolished in May, 2000.

(e)&(f) Staffing pattern in the Missions/Posts abroad are constantly monitored by Ministry taking into account the quantum of work and other related aspects. 24 posts in different grades in various Missions/Posts have already been abolished.

(g) Does not arise, Sir.

(h) Steps taken by the ministry to curtail the expenditure being incurred by the Indian Missions abroad include, inter alia, 10% cut in the non-plan, non-salary expenditure, complete ban on purchase of new vehicles; review and abolition of vacant posts, 25% reduction in the rates of per diem for local tours/travel and introduction of austerity measures in organisation of conferences/seminars etc.